Relative to the State Police Pension and Retirement System (SPRS).

<u>New law</u> retains <u>existing law</u> which provides that the surviving spouse of a deceased <u>retired</u> employee shall receive a pension equal to the retirement pay that was being paid to the decedant on the date of death, provided the surviving spouse was married to the decedant for at least two years prior to the decedant's death and was living with the decedant at the time of death.

New law provides that the surviving spouse of a deceased <u>former</u> employee shall receive a pension equal to the retirement pay that would have been payable to the decedant, provided that: (1) the decedant had terminated employment before attaining the age for retirement eligibilty; and (2) has credit for at least 10 years of service in SPRS and has contributions credited to his account; and (3) the surviving spouse was married to the decedant for at least two years prior to the decedant's death and was living with the decedant at the time of death.

New law retains existing law which provides that if there is no surviving spouse eligible to receive benefits, the minor children of the decedant shall be entitled to benefits; and if there is no surviving spouse and no minor children, then the parents of the decedant shall be entitled to benefits; and that remarriage of the surviving spouse acts as a forfeiture of any rights to receive any further benefits. New law expands the scope of existing law by making it applicable to the surviving children or parents of a deceased former employee.

Effective July 1, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 11:1322)